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SUBJECT The Secrets of the Lebanon War

JACK ANDERSON: Israel is patching up relations with the United States. For three months the Israelis have deliberately held back military secrets from Washington. Israel's Defense Minister Ariel Sharon told me last August he'd turn down a Pentagon request for information about the performance of Soviet weapons in Lebanon. But a Pentagon team is now in Israel to work out an agreement for sharing the secrets of the Lebanon war.

The Pentagon wants to know how the Israelis succeeded in capturing or destroying so many sophisticated Soviet weapons. U.S. experts also want to examine the captured weapons.

The most important secret is how the Israelis knocked out the surface-to-air missiles in the Bekaa Valley. These were top-of-the-line missiles that the Russians had supplied to Syrian forces. The prize exhibit is a Soviet missile that the Israelis captured intact. It's so new that it's never been seen by Western intelligence experts. The Pentagon would also like to know how the Israelis shot down 85 Soviet MIG fighter planes and destroyed a dozen T-72 tanks. These latest Soviet tanks are rolling pillboxes, and the U.S. Army doesn't know how to stop them.

In short, Israel has a gold mine of military information that it's now willing to share with the United States. After an agreement is worked out, a larger delegation will be sent to Israel for briefings. This delegation will include experts from all the military services and the CIA.

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